Service Date: March 28, 1983

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

\* \* \* \* \*

IN THE MATTER of the Application of ) the SHELBY GAS ASSOCIATION for ) Authority to Increase its Natural ) Gas Rates. )

UTILITY DIVISION

DOCKET NOS. 81.3.34

81.7.76

DEFAULT ORDER NO. 4781d

\* \* \* \* \*

83-12

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Shelby Gas Association filed petitions with the Montana Public Service Commission requesting that the Commission, pursuant to jurisdiction granted by Sections 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, authorize it to increase its natural gas rates to offset the increased cost of gas purchased from the Montana Power Company.
  - 2. The applications were approved on a interim basis.
- 3. A notice of opportunity for public hearing was served February 14, 1983, with requests for hearing to be received on or before March 15, 1983. No requests were received.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over the rates and tariffs of the applicant.
  - 2. Rates approved herein are found to be just and reasonable.

## ORDER

- 1. The increased cost of gas to the applicant represent a legitimate operating expense.
- 2. Rates approved on an interim basis are hereby made permanent.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of - at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held March 28 , 1983.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Chairman

OHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

HOWARD I FILES COmmissions

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cettrice

Madeline L. Cottrill Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE:

Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.